



**SHERIFF-CORONER DEPARTMENT
COUNTY OF ORANGE
CALIFORNIA**

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September 16, 2008

Mr. Mathew Cate, Secretary
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
1515 S Street
Office of the Secretary, Room 5025
Sacramento, CA 95814

The County of Orange would like to thank the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) for the \$100,000,000 conditional award that we received based on our AB 900 proposal submitted in March 2008. This funding would enable the County of Orange to build a significant quantity of new jail beds to help address our current overcrowding issues and to help with future incarceration demands of our County. However, at this time, we are not able to complete a Siting Agreement that meets the State's requirements.

The County of Orange is very supportive of the State Reentry program and its effort to reduce recidivism. Initially, the County of Orange proposed a State Reentry option using a portion of one of our existing jail facilities. This reentry option was intended to provide low start up costs and a short timeline for implementation. Upon review by CDCR, this site was determined to be nonviable based on program concepts and assembly bill language (AB 900).

Although the County of Orange pursued other reentry facility options within our county, we were unsuccessful in identifying a site that would be suitable for State ownership and operation. We understand and support the concept of providing County inmates and State prisoners access to programs that will reduce recidivism and help inmates and prisoners reenter society as productive members of the community. However, the requirement that the State own and operate the facility has proved to be something that will not work in our county. Therefore, the County of Orange will not be submitting a Siting Agreement for a State Reentry Facility nor will we be petitioning the CSA Board for an extension in order to secure final award funding.

The County of Orange is very interested in the second phase of AB 900 funding. If the second phase of AB 900 funding requires State Reentry, I hope that there will be more flexibility to design a program that meets the State's needs as well as local county needs.

We appreciate the time that the State and its representatives have given to us during this process. Please contact Rick Dostal, Executive Director of Administrative Services at (714) 647-1803 if you need any follow-up information.

Sincerely,

Sandra Hutchens
Sheriff-Coroner

cc: John M. W. Moorlach, Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Patricia C. Bates, Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors
Bill Campbell, Supervisor, Third District, Board of Supervisors
Janet Nguyen, Supervisor, First District, Board of Supervisors
Chris Norby, Supervisor, Fourth District, Board of Supervisors
Tom Mauk, CEO
Ben De Mayo, County Counsel

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